

# RUNOFF

Newsletter of the Washington State University  
Cooperative Extension  
King County Land/Water Stewards



Winter 2003

## King County Proposes Updates to Sensitive Area Regulations

By Paul Racette

How many Land/Water stewards can recall learning about King County's Sensitive Area code during your training? Remember trying to locate a home site on that graph paper map, far enough away from the stream, wetland, and steep slope to meet the sensitive area buffer requirements? King County is proposing to update Sensitive Area and Stormwater Management regulations to address new state and federal requirements, including (1) basing regulations on the best available science (2) protecting Chinook salmon and Bull trout, recent additions to the Endangered Species List, and (3) implementing new Clean Water Act stormwater management standards.

The sensitive area regulation will be renamed the Critical Areas Ordinance. Among other changes, the updated regulation adopts a new stream classification system that includes four water types as opposed to three. The new classification system considers fish habitat and the connection of a waterway to fish bearing waterways. The required stream buffers are increased (for example, from 100 feet to 165 feet for rural streams.) Likewise, the regulation adopts the Department of Ecology's wetland rating system, and increases required wetland buffers (for example, from 100 to 300 feet for Category 1 wetlands.) The regulation also adds fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, with the purpose of protecting birds, mammals, and aquatic species.

Proposed changes to the Stormwater Management regulation include reducing thresholds for when drainage review and storm water management is required for development projects (for example, reducing thresholds from 5,000 square feet to 2,000 square feet of new impervious surface.)

The proposed regulations will impact more land than current regulations, an issue that is sparking a lively public debate. In a January 31, 2003 Capital Press article, farmers voiced concern that a lot of their land will be taken out of production due to the new buffer requirements, resulting in the further loss of small farms in King County. Additional debate should follow as the County holds public meetings on the proposed regulations.

The draft Critical Areas and Stormwater Ordinances are now available for public comment. Executive Sims will present his proposal to the County Council in May 2003. See [www.metrokc.gov/ddes/cao](http://www.metrokc.gov/ddes/cao) for more information.

## Conservation Tools Education Program

By Paul Racette

Thanks to the help of the Land/Water Steward community, we can report good progress in achieving the educational and conservation goals of the **Conservation Tools Education Program**. Program achievements would not have been possible without the workshop planning efforts of Jenny Forbes, Susan Titus, Jan Delacy, the GIS maps created by Jim Rogers, and the landowner workshops and site visits that many more of you participated in (special thanks again to Susan Titus). A total of 38



*Susan Titus*

King and Pierce County stewards learned about conservation tools, 15 participated in advanced training, and 14 participated in the program's implementation.

The Conservation Tools Education Program seeks to protect areas critical to the conservation of threatened salmon through increased landowner use of conservation tools. To achieve this goal, we held landowner workshops in important salmonid-bearing watersheds, from Vashon Island to the Nisqually River. In addition to learning about current use taxation programs, conservation easements, and other land conservation tools, the 114 landowners who participated in the 2002 workshops had the opportunity to find out specifically how the natural resources on their land qualify for these conservation programs. Fifteen King County landowners requested follow-up site visits from WSU staff and stewards to learn more about what they can do to conserve their stream and woodland resources. Eight of the King County landowners with whom we worked proposed to enroll 67 acres of shoreline and woodlands into conservation programs. Please contact Paul Racette at 206-205-3171 to find out about 2003 Conservation Tools Education Program activities.

## Watershed Program News and Developments

### Together we know more! The merging of LWS, ELA, and FA volunteers in the LWSA

By Sylvia Kantor

All of King County Extension's programs are about engaging communities through stewardship. We educate volunteers to be stewards and leaders as Land Water Stewards, Extension Livestock Advisors, and Forest Advisors as well as Master Gardeners. It is our belief that teaching practical, applicable solutions and providing access to research-based information empowers people to make King County a great place to live.

Because the theme of stewardship is common among all of our volunteer training programs, WSU faculty and staff along with members of the Land/Water Stewardship Association (LWSA) are working together toward a more integrated approach to sharing the message of stewardship. We believe that by combining the energy, creativity, and diverse knowledge of WSU stewards, we will collectively be able to better protect the water, land, farms, and food of King County (see related articles regarding core competencies and curriculum development on this page).

The LWSA was created in 1990 with the purpose of delivering natural resource information to individuals and groups residing in the Puget Sound watershed. Educational programs are offered to existing stewards and King County communities through workshops and conferences. As a 501(c) organization, the LWSA can also facilitate the funding of stewardship activities via grants and donations.

LWSA founders envisioned the association serving as an umbrella organization for WSU programs that address natural resource issues. To formalize this vision, the association has invited forest and livestock advisors to join the LWSA. Further, the LWSA is seeking interested Extension Livestock Advisors and Forest Advisors to join the board of directors to ensure that these volunteers are represented as members of the Association. We are proud of the combined talent and vitality of all WSU stewards and the LWSA welcomes your contribution.

The definition of who a LWSA member is was amended in the bylaws at the last meeting of the LWSA board of directors on **February 10, 2003**. The proposed amendment follows and is presented here for your review as is required by the bylaws:

"A Land Water Steward Association (LWSA) member is anyone who has completed the WSU Land Water Steward training, Extension Livestock Advisor training, or Forest Advisor training, has fulfilled or is in the process of fulfilling their required WSU volunteer hours and who has not otherwise asked to be removed from the LWSA list. Failure of an LWSA member to communicate with or participate in WSU stewardship activities for a period of one year or more may result in said member being dropped from the LWSA membership roster."

### WSU Watershed Stewardship Program Core Competencies

By Paul Racette

WSU CE staff from across Washington State are developing core competencies for watershed stewardship programs. The goal is to establish a set of watershed steward program objectives and watershed steward volunteer competencies. A

working draft has been proposed, and WSU CE King County staff (Sylvia, Brad, and Paul) provided comments to the draft in early January. We recommended the development of two levels of volunteer competencies. Watershed stewards at the basic competency level would have an understanding of (1) watersheds and how land uses impact watersheds; (2) regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to protecting watersheds, (3) the roles of governments and communities in protecting watersheds, and (4) the roles of WSU watershed stewards in watershed protection. Stewards at the advanced competency level would understand how to take on leadership roles in educating youth and adults, caring for volunteers, planning projects, and coordinating groups or events. The current WSU CE King County stewardship training addresses most of these topics. Other advanced competency topics are being considered, such as monitoring, restoration, and grant writing. The core competencies will be aligned with our current endeavor to develop water quality curriculum (see accompanying article, current page). Please contact Sylvia Kantor at 206-205-3131 for more information on the development of these core competencies.



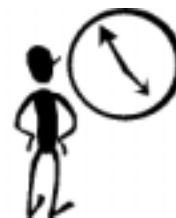
### Water Quality Curriculum Update

By Tara Goldsmith

The listing of salmon under ESA has highlighted the interconnectedness of all land-use practices, from farming and forest management to urbanization and gardening, and the large impact these uses can have on water quality. We have taken this connection to heart and are in the process of reviewing water quality curricula among all WSU-CE Water, Land, Farms and Food volunteer stewardship programs, including Land/Water Stewards, Livestock Advisors, Forest Advisors, and Master Gardeners. We are in the early stages of curriculum assessment, with the near future goal being a standardized water quality curriculum that integrates these diverse land-use issues and is applicable across all trainings. This shared water quality curriculum will be a team effort, and will therefore prevent the need to re-invent water quality curriculum components on a training-by-training basis. This project is funded by USDA through its Cooperative State Research, Ecology and Extension Service (CSREES section 406 grant). For information please contact Sylvia Kantor at 206-205-3131.



## **HOURS UPDATE**



### **Why is it so important to report volunteer hours?**

During this era of tight budgets, citizens and elected officials are taking a critical look at all tax-supported programs. They are asking questions such as: Is this a wise use of tax dollars? Is this program really addressing the critical issues facing our state? Is this program really having an impact?

In order to provide factual answers to these questions rather than opinions, WSU CE needs to have accurate, current records of the contributions volunteers make to their communities. If citizens and politicians see Land/Water Stewards addressing critical issues and really making an impact, they will hold up the Land/Water Steward program as a model of efficient and effective use of tax dollars, and we will receive strong support.

Your volunteer hour reports are essential in maintaining a strong and effective WSU Land/Water Steward program. **Please help document the impact of the program by completing your reports forms! Thank-you!**

### **How can I earn hours? Let me count the ways...**

#### **Education and Leadership**

Volunteer hours are earned by participating in educational or leadership activities related to land and water stewardship and that support the mission of WSU-CE, which includes community improvement and community stewardship.

Most stewards work within their community, workplaces, clubs and associations, places of worship, etc. Some also help with public education booths at community events. Others work on publications, displays, and other educational projects. Researching and writing for publication does count toward volunteer hours, if you are writing under the auspices of the Land Water Stewardship program. There are many possibilities and they ultimately depend upon each steward's comfort level regarding whom they work with and the subjects they cover.

#### **What Doesn't Count**

There are activities that do not count. For example, activities related to activism, commercial activity, or just plain labor (without an educational or leadership component).

#### **Other Guidelines**

Other guidelines to consider: WSU CE must be the organization to whom you report volunteer hours, not another group that may be involved with the project. The Steward must be able to wear her/his badge and use Cooperative Extension materials and information, if applicable, when speaking with the public.

#### **And don't forget about counting people and contacts!**

Please do count the people (and youth) you speak with at a booth, event, speaking engagement, etc., and note their ethnicity and gender, if possible.

No doubt, questions will arise that haven't been addressed here. If so, ASK the question! In the coming year credit will not be given for ineligible hours. You will be notified, of course, but it will be easier on all of us if - **when in doubt, you check it out.** Call or email Sylvia Kantor 206-205-3131; [sylvia.kantor@metrokc.gov](mailto:sylvia.kantor@metrokc.gov).

## Looking For Ways to Earn Volunteer Hours? Here Are Some Ways To Get Involved!



### March

#### Small Farm Expo

Puget Sound-area small acreage landowners, farmers, and other interested persons are invited to attend the 2nd Annual Small Farm Expo on **Saturday, March 29th** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the King County Fairgrounds in Enumclaw. The Small Farm Expo features hands-on demonstrations, educational presentations, and vendors featuring the most current information on livestock, crop and resource technologies, land management, and more! The event presents a great opportunity to learn more about the relationship between agricultural activities and the environment in our region, either as an attendee or a volunteer!

Volunteers are needed Friday March 28th and Saturday March 29th for a variety of tasks. This is a great way to earn credit hours, and perhaps to broaden your own understanding of the role of the environment in agriculture.

The event is sponsored by the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, King and Pierce Conservation Districts, and WSU Cooperative Extension of King and Pierce Counties. Admission to the event is free! For more information or to volunteer your time, call Alison Nichols at 206-205-3206 or see [www.metrokc.gov/wsucce/farmexpo](http://www.metrokc.gov/wsucce/farmexpo). *Volunteer Opportunity!*

### April

#### Field Day for livestock owners and small woodland owners

Does your farm have a few trees or several acres of woodland? Are you interested in learning more about sustainable forest management practices? Attend the FREE Field Day **Saturday April 5th** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m! Learn how to determine if your forest is healthy, and how to control diseases. Find out about harvest options including low-impact options, learn techniques to enhance wildlife, find out about soils and techniques for managing them that will enhance soil productivity.

This free event will be held in Enumclaw, WA, on a working cattle farm that has been in the family for three generations. This family is committed to being good stewards of the land while deriving income from their land - from both the trees and the cattle. Visit this beautiful 270-acre cattle operation and witness the sustainable forest management practices they have implemented on their farm. The event is free but pre-registration is required. For additional information or to register contact Geoff Reed at the King Conservation District at 206-764-3410 X103 or [geoff.reed@kingcd.org](mailto:geoff.reed@kingcd.org)

### May

#### Land/Water Stewardship Program 2003 Needs Your Expertise

By Paul Racette

Recruitment for the **Spring 2003 Land/Water Stewardship training** is underway. We are lining up presenters and have scheduled time on the afternoon of **Friday, May 16th** for stewards and the Land/Water Stewardship Association to address the class. Please contact Sylvia Kantor at 206-205-3131; [sylvia.kantor@metrokc.gov](mailto:sylvia.kantor@metrokc.gov) if you are interested in telling the Class of 2003 about your projects and stewardship experiences. *Volunteer Opportunity!*

### Summer

#### Agriculture in the classroom

Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) is a unique, fun and fact-filled workshop experience for teachers of all grade levels and all subjects. This workshop will help educators to integrate knowledge of our food and fiber system into their existing curriculum. The class addresses Washington agriculture, soils, water, crops, livestock, insects, and biotechnology, with demonstrations, field trips, and hands-on activities incorporated into the training. Teachers also will get materials, lesson plans adaptable to their class, and much more. The training will be held in Renton in **July 2003**. It is a five day workshop for three 400-level continuing education credits. Cost is \$75 to cover registration and a materials fee. Scholarships are available to all core/full-time teachers.

To apply, phone or email WAITC in Yakima at 509-469-2430, [info@waic.net](mailto:info@waic.net). For more information locally contact Sonia G. Morales at WSU-CE KC, 206-205-3133 or [sgmorales@wsu.edu](mailto:sgmorales@wsu.edu). *Volunteer Opportunity!*

#### WSU Stewardship Picnic

By John Coleman and Darcy Batura

On September 7, 2002, the Land/Water Steward Association of King County, in conjunction with WSU-CE, 4-H, EarthCorps, and the Friends of the Cedar River Watershed, held the **1st Annual WSU Stewardship Picnic** at Seattle Public Utility's Rattlesnake Lake Recreation Area. The event was made possible in part by a Small Change for a Big Difference Grant awarded by the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks.

Activities offered during the celebration included bus tours of the watershed, water quality education, games and activities for kids, and door prizes. Although the picnic was technically for volunteers, it was also open to the public with the hope of recruiting more King County residents to participate in environmental stewardship programs offered by the picnic sponsors.

Approximately 50 volunteers joined us for the day, but we suspect that many more visited the event, especially hikers that stopped in en route to or from the Rattlesnake Ledge Trailhead.

We are beginning to plan the 2nd Annual WSU Stewardship Picnic that will take place **September 13, 2003**. It is exciting to plan for potential locations, partners and activities to make this year's event a smashing success. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements with additional details, or better yet, if you would like to be involved with the Planning Committee (and earn volunteer hours in the process!), please contact Sylvia Kantor 206-205-3131; [sylvia.kantor@metrokc.gov](mailto:sylvia.kantor@metrokc.gov). *Volunteer Opportunity!*

### Autumn

#### Harvest Celebration Farm Tour

Although we are in the midst of winter, planning has already begun for the fifth annual Harvest Celebration Farm Tour on **October 4th** in King County. Last year's Celebration was a huge success in large part due to the work of volunteer stewards. Whether you have a few hours to spare or would like to initiate an ongoing outreach partnership with a farmer, the Harvest Celebration will benefit from your participate. Stay tuned in the coming months for details and updates. *Volunteer Opportunity!*





## Salmon Short Course Piloted in Fall 2002

By Paul Racette

Seventeen King County residents took advantage of a new stewardship training opportunity offered this past November. The Salmon Short Course was sponsored by **WSU CE**, the **King County Water and Land Resources Division**, and the **Mid-Puget Sound Fishery Enhancement Group**. The 17 trainees ranged from an Enumclaw high school student, to University of Washington undergraduates, to a recent Weyerhaeuser Company retiree. The participants learned about watersheds and the salmon swimming through them, why Pacific Northwest salmon have declined, the status of regional salmon recovery efforts, and how individuals can get involved with salmon recovery and stream restoration projects.

The 14-hour training included one evening lecture and two Saturday field trips. Following the WSU CE stewardship model, participants are expected to return at least 14 hours of volunteer service to the sponsoring organizations. WSU CE hopes to offer similar short and advanced courses as opportunities for people to learn more about the issues and get involved in stewardship. Please contact Paul Racette at 206-205-3171 for more information.



*Emelie Mc Nett & Kathleen Ryan planting during the Salmon Short Course.*



*A planting demonstration with Laura Wilson of Mid-Puget Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group.*



*Salmon Short Course students at work*

## Staff Updates and Needs

The Land Water Stewardship Program welcomes **Tara Goldsmith** to our team. Tara is working as a water quality intern, which means she is researching curricula for our water quality curriculum project and is supporting the training efforts for the LWS Class of 2003. When she is not working in Renton, Tara is finishing her masters'

thesis on the ecology and conservation of an endangered plant species in eastern Washington through the Center for Urban Horticulture at the University of Washington. We are lucky to have her!



*Tara Goldsmith, water quality intern.*

Some of you may be aware that when Marilyn Freeman left the Agroecologist position as the program lead, Sylvia Kantor and Paul Racette stepped in on an interim basis to fill her shoes. No easy task! As of January 16, 2003 **Sylvia Kantor** was hired to fill the vacant Agroecologist position and now leads the program. **Paul Racette** will continue his work with the Conservation Tools Education Program and the Land/Water Steward Training part time, as funding is available.

## Looking for a good job, doing good work?

Help WSU faculty and staff members involved in community environmental stewardship. The Water, Land, Farms and Food programs at WSU Cooperative Extension King County need your organizational and fiscal management skills, grace, and sense of humor to help us manage our wonderful volunteer and educational programs. For information contact Jan Roark regarding this full time, full benefits senior secretary position at 206-205-3102 or email [jan.roark@metrokc.gov](mailto:jan.roark@metrokc.gov); For information about WSU Extension King County visit <http://www.metrokc.gov/wsuce/>

## Steward Page

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### Emelie McNett 2002

I spent the greater portion of 2002 spearheading Burien's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Project. It got off to a great start with monthly meetings and guest speakers who informed interested Burien residents about everything from noxious weeds to the Manure Share program to composting. However, as 2002 progressed, meetings became less well attended, such that by November, I decided to take a different tack for 2003.

I have put together a curriculum for a 6-week course on Ecological Gardening for the spring quarter which will cover much of what was covered in my monthly meetings, inviting guest speakers to talk about alternatives to pesticide use, native plants in landscaping, reducing lawn size and watering, composting, etc. I look forward to my continued efforts in educating the public on the small things they can do to their landscape to keep our urban environment healthy for wildlife.

### Darla Chapman 2001

As a Land/Water steward I've been working with the Girl Scouts in the Snoqualmie Valley area by teaching Brownie troops about wildlife, the water cycle and water conservation, and other natural resource issues. I attended camp day at Camp River Ranch to help them earn their "Eco-Explorer" and "Water Everywhere" badges.

In addition, I have volunteered as naturalist and team leader for the Cedar River Salmon Journey program. This program, which

takes place every fall when the salmon return to the Cedar River to spawn, trains volunteers to teach the public about the history of the Cedar River, the lifecycle of the salmon, and how water is supplied from the Cedar River Watershed to the greater Seattle area.

### Joel Sisolak 2002

An Announcement:

#### **Cedar River Watershed Training Opportunity**

Be a FRIEND of the Cedar River Watershed Education Center! The Cedar River Watershed Education Center is recruiting docents and hosts for 2003. The training begins **March 5th**. Join the fun, greet visitors, and help make their trip to the Center a memorable, educational experience. There are benefits too! A cool uniform and membership to the Friends of the Cedar River Watershed, both FREE!

The eight session training will teach you the ropes, introduce you to the watershed, and equip you to succeed in your dealings with the public. Call today for more information on how you can get involved. Contact Chris Holland, CRWEC Facility Coordinator 206-615-0831 or 425-831-6780.

#### **Submit Your Articles to *Runoff***

Please make *Runoff* your forum for stewardship activities across our Puget Sound watershed. Send in articles, photos, poems, announcements, stories, advertisements, and other stewardship nuggets. Let's expand the Stewardship Page!

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Page 5 by Paul Racette (1-3)

Page 5 by Sylvia Kantor (4)

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